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# Media Monitoring Report

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- **Reuters: Key political risks to watch in Sudan**  
[http://en.news.maktoob.com/20090000554832/Key\\_political\\_risks\\_to\\_watch\\_in\\_Sudan/Article.htm](http://en.news.maktoob.com/20090000554832/Key_political_risks_to_watch_in_Sudan/Article.htm)
- **AFP: Deminers in race against south Sudan boom**  
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iyVyzvSOd70qIZ4t4AheA3FB16wA?docId=CNG.0a272664987adaa3bf793f4d11f4fe3a.3f1>
- **AFP: Sudan mulls monetary future as partition looms**  
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5huX6q-5VIYpIIFjdnTidRCONMBiA?docId=CNG.0a272664987adaa3bf793f4d11f4fe3a.931>

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# Referendum Watch

## **SSRC to announce overall referendum results today**

*Al-Ahdath et al Khartoum, 02/02/11* – The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) holds a press conference at its offices in Khartoum at noon today to announce the overall aggregated results of the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan. SSRC Spokesperson Soad Ibrahim said that the commission would also start, effective tomorrow, to receive appeals to the process. As prescribed by the law, the appeals period would span three days after which, should there be no appeals, the final results would be announced on 7 February. Should there be any appeals, she said, announcement of the final results would be pushed back to 14 February.

## **FVP Kiir rules out extension of the Interim Period**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 02/02/11* – FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit says African leaders at the recently-concluded AU summit meet in Addis have expressed readiness to recognise a separate state in southern Sudan. Kiir who was speaking at Juba Airport on return from Addis yesterday ruled out possibilities for an extension of the Interim Period but said Khartoum and Juba would continue to work towards solutions to the outstanding issues.

He also said that participants to the 16th Ordinary Summit Meeting of the AU expressed readiness to support southern Sudan.

FVP Kiir also pledged to work together with northern Sudan towards easing economic sanctions on Sudan and to help scrap Sudan's name from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism.

## **South Sudan welcomes NCP's acceptance of referendum results**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 01/02/11*- A leading GoSS official on Tuesday welcomed acceptance of the Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) to recognize the overwhelming vote in favour of independence, in January's referendum. Final results are due to be announcement in the course of the next two weeks.

"On behalf of the government of south Sudan, I welcome the statement made by Vice president Ali Osman Mohammed Taha. Respecting the will of people of south Sudan by recognizing their choice is the only way through which the peace can be achieved in Sudan", said GoSS Information Minister Barnaba Marial.

The minister also praised President Omar Hassan al-Bashir with his first Vice president Salva Kiir Mayardit for their courage and determination in allowing the referendum to go ahead.

"It takes courage to do the right thing. President Bashir and President Kiir are great leaders. They have shown the whole world that they can overcome challenges. Their courage to allow conduct of the referendum was not just a bold thought but a heroic decision to bring peace. They are champions and we must stand by them to resolve the other remaining issues," said Marial.

## **SPLM-DC acknowledges referendum results**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 01/02/11* - The Chairperson of Sudan People Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM-DC) in Central Equatoria state Peter Yeka said Tuesday that the state secretariat and the general secretariat of his party have acknowledged the preliminary results of the south's referendum, which saw a 99% vote in favour of independence.

Yeka told *Sudan Tribune* on Tuesday that, people of southern Sudan have been longing for their opportunity to exercise self determination. He congratulated southern Sudan for their tirelessly participation during the plebiscite, which on January 15.

The politician appealed to the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), from whom the SPLM-DC split in 2009, who govern the south, to work hand in hand with the other political parties to achieve the aspirations of the people of the region as which were discussed during a conference of the south's political parties in October last year.

### **NCP official blames SPLM for Sudan break-up**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 01/02/11* - A senior official of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in north Sudan has blamed the dominant Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the south for splitting the country, saying it was never the will of the southern people to split.

Gosh said the NCP had offered many concessions to the SPLM outside the purview of the CPA in order to make unity attractive, including ceding the north's share in oil revenue, increasing the SPLM's representation in the federal government and maintaining the existence of the SPLA – the SPLM's military wing. "... but the SPLM and those standing behind it wanted the south to secede and thus pushed their request to establish a secular system and abolish Islamic Shari'ah law," Gosh said.

"At which point we told them we are with separation and we will not compromise on the Shari'ah issue no matter the outcome," he added.

According to Gosh, the SPLM resorted to the choice of secession after it realized that its secular project had no supporters in north Sudan except the "remnants of leftist parties."

Separately, Salah Gosh reflected on the 21-year rule of the government in north Sudan, saying that Al-Inqaz or Salvation - the original name president's Al-Bashir regime - had not been running a state in the proper definition of the term but rather fighting off crises.

Gosh pointed out that the government had inherited "an economic situation beyond collapse, a vicious war and political disintegration." He added that the fact that the government's efforts intensified towards solving problems, including that of the south, had crippled its broader project.

### **NCP's Qutbi Al-Mahdi rules out renewed north-south tensions**

*Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 02/02/11* – Senior NCP figure Qutbi Al-Mahdi has ruled out possibilities of renewed security tensions between the north and south of the country. "The militant mentality no longer dominates the mindset of the SPLM senior leadership," he said. "They now think like statesmen who are bent on preserving regional stability," he said.

Al-Mahdi who was addressing a symposium organised by his party in Northern Kordofan, pointed out that southern Sudanese are aware that it is not in their interest to cause tensions with the north because they need the north to help them create Africa's newest nation.

### **Border demarcation to resume next week**

*Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 02/02/11* – The technical ad hoc border demarcation committee resumes work next week following a break as southern Sudanese members of the commission went to participate in the referendum.

Professor Abdallah Al-Sadig who heads the committee said that they would embark on

implementing President Al-Bashir's recent instructions to address the contentious issues in the exercise. Speaking to the *Sudan Media Centre*, he assured that the ad hoc committee is capable of reaching an agreement on all the contentious issues hampering their work, especially after the 6 instructions from the Presidency of the Republic.

## Popular Consultations Watch

### Popular Consultations close in Blue Nile today

*Al-Sahafa Damazin, 02/01/11* – The Popular Consultations exercise in Blue Nile State comes to a close today after the expiration of the 20 days prescribed for the exercise. The head of the Parliamentary Commission on Popular Consultations, Siraj Ata-el-Mannan, says the exercise may however be resumed at the Wad-el-Mahi station in Rosseires locality that was the site of earlier scuffles. He said that the commission is yet to decide on whether or not to resume the exercise in those areas.

In a related development, the Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Commission, Sila Musa, said that the popular consultations exercise went on smoothly with participants exceeding 61,500.

## Other Highlights

### US group supporting opposition to topple government –Security Advisor

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 02/02/11* – National Security Advisor Salah Gosh says the opposition in Sudan is not united. Briefing university lecturers at the NCP headquarters in Khartoum yesterday, Gosh pointed out that the opposition could broadly be differentiated into two: “An undecided group that includes the DUP and the National Umma Party, and an extremist group represented by the Popular Congress and Sudan Communist parties”. He accused the latter group of receiving assistance from foreign parties to topple the regime. The plot to topple the government was in place even before the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt but “they remain plans on paper,” he boasted. He revealed that the Umma and DUP parties had advised the others seeking to topple government to delay the plot because of the government's strong control over the state security apparatus.

### Opposition insists on regime change

*AL-Sahafa Khartoum, 02/02/11* – The alliance of opposition parties has resolved to continue in its efforts to bring regime change in the country and say there is no going back on calls for a popular uprising. Alliance spokesperson Farouq Abu-Eissa told a press conference in Khartoum yesterday that the opposition maintains the view that the end of the Interim Period renders the current constitution void, thus obviating the government to step down and make way for an interim government on the basis of constitutional and administrative arrangements and a national programme that would seek address the problems of the economy, Darfur and future north-south relations.

He said the opposition rejects the NCP's calls for the formation of a broad-based government. He said the opposition alliance stands in solidarity with the anti-government protestors. Abu-

Eissa also blamed the current regime for the split of the country.

Meanwhile, the Spokesperson of the opposition alliance, Kamal Omar, said that by the recent speech by VP Ali Osman Taha, the government has proved it intends to continue in its “totalitarian policies”, thus “closing the door on any possibilities for dialogue on an interim government”.

Meanwhile, *Reuters* reports that Sudanese students defied arrests and beatings on Tuesday, pressing ahead with anti-government protests inspired by demonstrations in neighbouring Egypt.

Opposition activists blame the government for rising food prices and have been protesting since Sunday around the country. They plan more demonstrations on Feb. 3.

On Tuesday, some 200 students demonstrated outside al-Nilein University in Khartoum before hundreds of police beat them back and surrounded the university buildings with 20 vehicles.

The government has blamed the opposition for trying to create chaos in the country. The broad opposition alliance on Tuesday said their student leaders were arrested after a meeting in the capital and demanded the release of all prisoners.

### **Sudan: Cyber campaigning for anti-government protests done from abroad**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 01/02/11* - Sudan has downplayed the magnitude of anti-government protests that erupted on Sunday, saying that most of those involved in online campaigning for the action are based outside the country.

Sudan’s official news agency *SUNA* on Tuesday quoted Mandur Al-Mahdi, a senior official in the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), as saying that the government’s monitoring of Facebook-based pages created to galvanize support for the protests had found that “85% of the messages there are sent from outside the country.”

Al-Mahdi went on to break down the figures as follow: 800 messages from Norway, 4000 from each of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates and 700 messages from the United Kingdom.

Al-Mahdi claimed that the total number of people who took to the streets did not exceed 600 at best estimates, adding that the government does not these “bogus” cyber movements to paint Sudan’s picture.

### **Khartoum Police to sue the BBC**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 02/02/11* – The police in Khartoum State says it intends to institute legal measures against BBC TV for “spreading false information that put security in the state at jeopardy”. The police maintain that the BBC was responsible for “spreading false reports that a student had died after police beat him up in last Sunday’s street protests in Khartoum.

In a recent statement, the police maintained that no student was killed as a result of the riots and that such rumours only seek to further the agenda of certain parties.

### **LRA rebels launch fresh attacks in remote area of Western Equatoria**

*Sudantribune.com Rii-Yubu, 01/02/11* - For the second time this week, rebels of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) on Tuesday launched attacks against civilians in the southwest of Western Equatoria in Sudan’s south.

The attack in Rii-Yubu locality in Tambura County killed one man and wounded two. Two

young girls where abducted. The location of the latest attack is just five miles away from Tambura a town, which borders the Central Africa Republic (CAR), where the LRA are thought to be based after being forced out of Uganda.

In a phone interview from Tambura County, the state minister of local government and law enforcement Wilson Sidigi told *Sudan Tribune* that the rebels raided on Tuesday morning “displacing the local communities”.

He added that, local protection group, the Arrow Boys, and the southern army (SPLA) have reported that the LRA were seen again at small village called Bariabande, also Rii-Yubu locality.

Sidigi said, “The joint forces composed of SPLA, UPDF and Arrow Boys are still pursuing the rebels.”

### **US to rebuild Sudan ties once south vote accepted**

*AFP Khartoum, 02/02/11* - The United States will start normalising its ties with Sudan once the outcome of the southern Sudanese independence referendum is approved, deputy US secretary of state James Steinberg said Wednesday.

"Once the results are certified, that will allow us ... to begin to take steps towards normalisation, including dealing with the state sponsors (of terrorism) list, as well as deepening our diplomatic ties," Steinberg told reporters in Khartoum after meeting Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Karti.

The Khartoum government said on Monday that it accepted the outcome of the January 9-15 vote, after preliminary results showed almost 99% of southerners favoured secession from the north.

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